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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

13 July 1965

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Noted by DCI.

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: GAMBIT Mission 4020

GAMBIT Mission 4020, launched on 12 July, failed to achieve orbit.

Preliminary analysis of telemetry indicates the ATLAS sustainer engine shut down shortly after booster separation. Although the AGENA engine subsequently started and apparently operated normally, insufficient total thrust was then available to achieve orbital velocity. The AGENA and OCV impacted in the South Pacific.

I will apprise you of any significant results from our investigation.

Brockway McMillan

Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

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